

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04413 021352Z  
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 L-01 H-01 INR-05 PM-03 PA-01  
SP-02 IO-06 HA-02 CA-01 SAA-01 SES-01 NSC-05  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 /051 W  
-----046670 030816Z /21

R 021243Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9037  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T 4413

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, SCUL, SY, LE, PLO  
SUBJ: JEWISH COMMUNITY IN LEBANON

REF: (A) 77 BEIRUT 1411, (B) 77 BEIRUT 1464

1. NAKHLE ZAKI CHAYAA MOGHRABE, ACTING HEAD OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN LEBANON, CAME TO EMBASSY ON JULY 31 AND TALKED WITH CHIEF OF CONSULAR SECTION AND EMBOFF. MOGHRABE WAS CONCERNED THAT THE RECENT FIGHTING BETWEEN SYRIANS AND CHRISTIAN MILITIAS HAD ENDANGERED THE POSITIONS OF JEWS IN LEBANON. ABOUT ONE WEEK AGO SAIQA OCCUPIED THE JEWISH SCHOOL AND SYNAGOGUE IN BEIRUT, MOGHRABE SAID. SAIQA HAD EXPLAINED THEY HAD DONE SO BECAUSE THE ISRAELIS WERE HELPING THE PHALANGE. ON JULY 27 KURDS KIDNAPPED TWO MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY AND TOOK THEM TO SYRIA.

2. ABOUT 300 JEWS NOW REMAINED IN LEBANON, ALMOST ALL OF  
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THEM IN BEIRUT, MOGHRABE NOTED. (COMMENT: THERE WERE ABOUT 7,000 JEWS IN 1966 AND ABOUT 1,000 IN JANUARY, 1977 IN LEBANON. SEE REF B. END COMMENT.) MOST WERE FROM SYRIA AND IRAQ AND WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE LEBANON; SOME WOULD GO TO ISRAEL. ABOUT ONE-HALF DID NOT HAVE A LEBANESE LAISSEZ-PASSER OR PASSPORT, HOWEVER, THAT WOULD ALLOW THEM TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

3. MOGHRABE HAD ASKED SURETE GENERALE HEAD FAROUK ABI LAMA FOR HELP IN ALLOWING JEWS TO LEAVE. ABI LAMA HAD REPLIED THAT HE COULD OFFER ONLY LIMITED ASSISTANCE, BECAUSE THE PALESTINIANS WERE PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT. SIMILARLY, PIERRE GEMAYEL HAD TOLD MOGHRABE THAT THE PHALANGE COULD NOT HELP, BECAUSE IT WOULD BE VERY DANGEROUS TO DO SO AT PRESENT. "A HIGH RANKING MEMBER OF THE LEBANESE ARMY" WAS THE ONLY PERSON WHO WOULD HELP. HE HAD OFFERED TO TAKE PEOPLE SOUTH AND MOVE THEM ACROSS THE BORDER TO ISRAEL, ALTHOUGH THIS WAS VERY DANGEROUS AT THE MOMENT. THIS PERSON HAD BEEN VERY HELPFUL TO JEWS IN THE PAST AND HAD HELPED SOME LEAVE LEBANON ACROSS THE ISRAELI BORDER BEFORE.

4. MOGHRABE ASKED EMBASSY FOR HELP BOTH IN GETTING LEBANESE DOCUMENTATION AND VISAS TO THE U.S. (BEING REPORTED BY SEPTEL THROUGH CONSULAR CHANNELS). PARKER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
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